

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1654
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2003
MOVEMENT OF INDIAN PROFESSIONALS
SUNIL KHAN

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether opening up the labour/service market and movement of people under WTO Agreement is far from being realised;
- (b) whether the EU countries refuse to recognise the educational qualifications from Third World countries;
- (c) if so, the extent to which this decision would affect the prospects of the aspiring Indian professionals;
- (d) whether the Government has taken up for negotiation in the WTO Forum regarding these anomalies; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI S.B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) The General Agreement on Trade in Services establishes a multilateral framework of principles and rules for trade in services and for grant of market access and national treatment commitments on a sectoral basis by each country, including on temporary movement of natural persons for supply of services. In this context, the commitments taken by most countries during the Uruguay Round are linked to commercial presence and are subject to a number of limitations and administrative hurdles.

(b) & (c): No, Sir. The European Community has in its commitments, offered access for temporary movement of service providers in various categories subject to evaluation of the education and professional qualifications of the persons seeking access.

(d) & (e): In keeping with the understanding that developed countries have taken very minimal commitments with regard to the movement of natural persons, India had submitted a proposal on liberalization of such movement at the WTO, identifying the barriers faced and suggesting strategies to achieve meaningful liberalization. Furthermore, requests have also been made to important trading partners in individual service sectors seeking the removal of barriers to access. These aspects are being addressed in the context of the ongoing mandated negotiations for achieving progressive liberalization of trade in services.